

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered this Application in connection with the Examiner's Action, and respectfully request reconsideration of this Application in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the Examiner's Action of November 17, 2006, that Claims 1 and 7-10 are allowed and that Claims 3-6 are objected to because they depend on cancelled Claim 2.

Applicants have amended Claims 3-6 so that they depend from Claim 1 rather than cancelled Claim 2. Applicants have cancelled Claims 25-29, 33-34, and 48. The cancelled claims now include Claims 2 and Claims 11-48.

Pending in this application are Claims 1 and 3 – 10.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 3-6 stand objected to as being dependent on cancelled Claim 2. Applicants have amended Claims 3-6 to depend from Claim 1 and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections

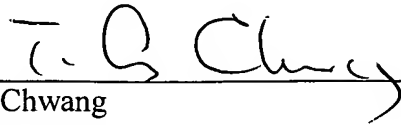
Applicants continue to disagree with the Examiner's reasoning and assert that (1) Claims 25 and 28 – 29 are not anticipated by Choi, (2) dependent Claims 26 – 27 are patentable over Choi in view of the Examiner's remark, (3) Claims 33 – 34, which pertain to the use of Ru and RuO₂ alone, rather than a composite metal layer, as a diffusion barrier, are not anticipated by Iwasaki, and (4) claim 48 is not anticipated by Iwasaki. Nevertheless, Applicants have elected to cancel these claims and request allowance of the pending claims. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these cancelled claims in one or more divisional applications.

III. Conclusion

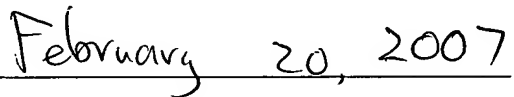
Applicants respectfully submit that, in light of the foregoing comments, Claims 1 and 3 – 10 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

If the Examiner has any other matters which pertain to this Application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by Examiner's Amendment where possible.

Respectfully submitted,



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